



STATE OF MICHIGAN

**Family  
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Agency**

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DOUGLAS E. HOWARD, Director

# News Release

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**Date:** December 19, 2001

## **Oakland County Woman is Statewide Achiever of the Month**

PONTIAC—The director of the Michigan Family Independence Agency (FIA), Douglas E. Howard presented the agency's statewide Achiever of the Month Award to Lucinda Holloway of Waterford. The celebration was held today, at the Oakland County FIA District 1 office in Pontiac.

This single mother of two was selected to receive the December award because of her determination to become independent of the welfare system despite significant barriers to her success.

In March 2001, Ms. Holloway lost her job after taking a medical leave of absence due to a domestic violence situation. She turned to the FIA for financial assistance to provide for her family.

Through the Oakland County FIA District 1 office she received Family Independence Program funds, Medicaid and food assistance benefits (formerly food stamps), three critical programs that are essential to helping families when their own resources have been temporarily exhausted.

(more)



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

Lucinda was determined to do whatever she could to provide a better life for her family. Despite her experiences with domestic violence, temporary housing and unemployment, she remained optimistic and committed to making the most of every opportunity that came her way.

To aid her in dealing with her emotional trauma, Lucinda received counseling through the Haven for Domestic Violence and Mercy Care Network. The FIA referred her to the Community Development Division, Housing Counseling Unit, which assisted her in locating housing.

In April 2001, Lucinda was referred to the Work First program to improve her employment skills. Through the Oakland County Michigan Works! subcontractor, Waterford Community Placement Center, she received help with organizing her job search, resume writing and interviewing.

The Waterford Community Placement Center also helped Lucinda gain additional training in the home health field. With their assistance she obtained training in catheterization from the Helping Hands Agency. When she completed the instruction she began working at Helping Hands in home care nursing.

In September 2001, the Waterford Community Placement Center helped Lucinda complete her nurses assistant training through a program operated by the Red Cross. In October 2001, she applied for employment at Antrium Home Health Care. The company hired her and she still works there today. Lucinda's cash assistance and food assistance case closed due to earnings in October 2001. She continues to receive child day care and transitional Medicaid.

Because she has demonstrated the ability to meet life's challenges and proved that it is possible to succeed against the odds, Lucinda Holloway became the ninety-seventh Michigan resident to be honored with the Achiever of the Month Award.

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